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GENERAL

1. Preparations for Security Council meeting--Secretary Byrnes has expressed to Foreign Ministers Bevin and Bidault the hope that they will represent their countries in person at the Security Council meetings in New York next week. Byrnes will represent the US and will insist on serious consideration of the Iranian question.

Embassy London reports that Bevin feels very strongly that the Security Council meetings should not be postponed, and that any concession to the Soviets on this point will seriously jeopardize the future of the UNO.

EUROPE--AFRICA

2. GERMANY: Border control--General McNarney recently asked for authority to close the border of the US zone on 15 April in order to discourage any large-scale unauthorized migration (see Summary of 8 March, item 5).

The War Department has now replied that, in agreement with the Secretary of State, the borders of the US zone are not to be closed to racial and religious persecutees for the time being; further instructions on the subject will be issued after the report of the Joint Anglo-American Committee on Palestine (expected by mid-April). Reasons for not closing the border now are (a) the relatively small number of Jews in the US zone, and (b) a desire to avoid incidents involving Jews before the Committee on Palestine has reported.

3. AUSTRIA: Border control--General Clark reports that migrant Jews numbering 100 to 200 are arriving and departing daily in the US sector Vienna and the US zone Austria, via an underground system, and are working their way westward apparently in the hope of reaching Palestine. He expects the numbers to increase greatly with the warmer weather.

If the border of the US zone Germany should be closed, General Clark believes that the US zone Austria will become glutted with Jewish refugees, since (a) he has insufficient troops

OSD review(s) completed.

State Dept. review completed

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to close the Austrian zone border effectively and (b) there has so far been little Soviet cooperation in preventing refugee Jews from entering the US zone.

4. BULGARIA: Cabinet resignation--US Representative Barnes believes that the Georgiev Cabinet resigned on 21 March in order to permit a reorganization that would strengthen the rule of the Communist-dominated Fatherland Front. He considers that the Fatherland Front's invitation to the opposition to join the new Government is not sincere but merely a gesture to demonstrate that the present regime is trying to carry out the Moscow Agreement.

THE AMERICAS

5. BRAZIL: US opposes sale of arms to the Dominican Republic--The State Department has instructed Embassy Rio to express to the Brazilian Government the concern of the US over the proposed sale of arms by Brazil to the Dominican Republic. The Embassy is to point out to the Brazilian Foreign Minister that the munitions could be used only against a neighboring country or the people of the Dominican Republic and would not contribute to the defense of this hemisphere.

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